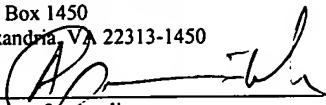


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Attorney for Applicant

Date: 31 March 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/010,387

Applicant(s): Philip H. Spano Jr. et al.

Filed: December 7, 2001

Title: METHOD OF OPERATING A DISPENSING CABINET

Art Unit: 3653

Examiner: Michael E. Butler

Docket No.: DB000972-000

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

To: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed on 23 January 2004 for the above-captioned application, enclosed is the following:

- Amendment, Response to Office Action of January 23, 2004.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

A return postcard is also enclosed. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,



Abhijat Parikh

Reg. No. 49,086

THORP, REED & ARMSTRONG

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301 Grant St.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425

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Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: March 31, 2004